



1912-2014

THE BULLETIN

Official monthly publication of the
Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume IX Issue 4 Dennis R Mallery, Editor

April 2014

Inside this Issue:

- Notes from April meeting at Baltimore Pike
- Paramedic Program Accepting Applications
- Williamsport, Kent Island Hiring Providers
- President's Car Up For Bid
- Buckle Up Campaign Help Sought
- Activities from around the area

Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

June 15: Ocean City

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

May 4: Eastern Garrett

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Assoc. L.A.

June 7: Cresaptown VFD

Garrett County Association

May 28: Friendsville VFRD

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

May 3: Oldtown VFD

Baltimore Pike Hosts April Association Gathering

Baltimore Pike VFC President Gary Carpenter welcomed the Executive Committee members and guests of the Association to their newly upgraded station and invited everyone to look around after the meeting.



President Gene Kidwell presided over the meeting that was called to order at 1400 hours.

Chaplain Walbert offered the invocation and conducted a short memorial service for those who passed away since our last gathering.

Roll call of departments showed 17 in attendance (46%) with Bedford Road, Bittering, Bloomington, Clarysville, Coriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Eastern Garrett, Ellerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance, GoodWill, Gorman, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Oakland, Potomac, Rawlings, Southern Garrett and Tri Towns EMS not represented.

Twelve Past Presidents were in attendance including Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Dennis Bonner, Gerard McGann, Rod Bowser, Pat Bowser, Janet Elbin, Mike Simmons, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg.

Guests in attendance included

MSFA 2nd Vice-president Johnie Roth; LAMSFA Chaplain Donna Struntz; LAMSFA Past President Sherry Soper; AGCVFRA LA President Pam Kyle; AGCVFRA LA Guard Leslie Cassady; AGCVFRA LA Past President Mary Carr; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; Dick DeVore, Director-Allegany Co. Dept. of Emergency Services; Allegany County Commissioners Mike McKay and Bill Valentine; Allegany County Commissioner candidates Jack Shade and Mark Widyer; and David Kline, Walkersville VFD.



MSFA 2nd Vice-president Johnie Roth update those attending on news from around the

State. With the General Assembly scheduled to end this year's session the day after the meeting was held, Vice-president Roth reviewed some legislation that affected the emergency services including HB1228/SB1070 which dealt with increases to the Income Tax Modification benefits for certain members of the emergency services. Currently those who qualify receive a \$3,500 subtraction from their Maryland income tax. Beginning with

2014, the subtraction will increase to \$3,750 and increase by \$250 per tax year until it reaches it's maximum of \$5,000 in 2019. The presidents were to tour the Convention Center in Ocean City to review the work that's been done to date. Johnie also stated the convention information was available on the MSFA website, www.msfa.org Another change this year will be the absence of the Tuesday afternoon buffet. This will allow members to spend more time with their families at the ocean or where ever. Departments are reminded and encouraged to submit their nominees for the annual awards presented each year at the Convention. Deadlines for most awards are May 1st. First Vice-president David Keller is also seeking committee members for the upcoming year. If you wish to serve, a form is available on the MSFA website in the Document Library under 'Forms'. Please let David know as soon as possible of your interest. Johnie thanked everyone for their support and kindness throughout the year and looks forward to working with the Association in the upcoming year.

Pat Bowser, **Volunteer Company Assistance Fund**, reported on their meeting held on

(Continued on page 3)

Departments Asked To Promote Seat Belt Usage During Campaign

The following was a joint release by Jacqueline Olson, President, MSFA; Richard Alcorta MD, FACEP, Acting Co - Executive Director, MIEMSS; Patricia Gainer, JD MPA, Acting Co - Executive Director, MIEMSS to the emergency services of Maryland:

The "Click It or Ticket Campaign for 2014" emphasizes the importance the partnership between Enforcement and Education with a continued target on night time seat belt use. This multi-agency approach has two goals – to save lives by buckling seat belts and child restraints on every ride and to improve the safe driving practices of all Marylanders. We are requesting your department's help to get out the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) campaign "Click it Or Ticket - Day and Night."

We are asking every EMS, Fire, and Rescue Company to display the BUCKLE UP banners from Monday May 12, 2014 through Sunday June 1, 2014, as part of the Maryland educational campaign. The high profile enforcement mobilization is May 19th through June 1st, but the goal is not to write more tickets – the goal is "Chose Safety for Life."

For those that have electronic signs, please display the following message:

"Buckle Up Maryland –
Day & Night. It is the Law"

Seat belts are the most effective safety feature ever invented and have helped save thousands of lives. Sadly, one in five Americans fail to regularly wear a seat belt when driving or riding in a motor vehicle. By maintaining the "Click It or Ticket" awareness, we will continue to reduce seat belt fatalities on America's roads. Forward information about the status of your department's pledge and any pictures from your outdoor signs to MIEMSS Media at jbrown@miemss.org Thank you for joining this important public safety campaign. We wish you a safe and happy spring and summer.



Williamsport Fire/EMS Hiring Providers

Williamsport Volunteer Fire – Emergency Medical Services Inc.; is currently accepting applications to establish a hiring qualification list for Part-Time ALS Providers. We are currently looking to fill up to 4 positions.

Williamsport Volunteer Fire – Emergency Medical Services Inc. (WVFEMS) is a Volunteer community service (9-1-1) organization of approximately 100 members who utilizes Full and Part Time career staff to provide ALS and BLS level EMS response to the citizens of the Town of Williamsport and surrounding areas of Washington County, MD and Berkeley County, WV.

WVFEMS responds to some 1500+ emergency calls a year and transport patients to all local hospitals. When hired, candidates will work closely with volunteer fire and EMS providers under the direction of volunteer officers of the company as well as with career personnel from Washington County Department of Emergency Services who provide ALS support in the community as well.

Prior to being approved as a cleared provider, the candidate will be required to participate in Washington County's ALS Provider clearing process, which entails riding with an approved ALS Preceptor to be evaluated and suggested skill check offs. The exception to this is ALS providers currently affiliated with the Washington County EMS Operations Program.

Position: Part-Time ALS Provider/Firefighter (No benefits), hours will vary based off demand and availability.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration for this position, the applicant must complete an employment application and provide documentation of the following licenses/certifications. State of Maryland licensed Paramedic (EMT-P) or State of Maryland licensed Cardiac Rescue Technician (CRT), Current Driver license with less than 3 points, completion of Emergency Vehicle Operator's course or equivalent, completed NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800, and Hazardous Materials Operations. Additional desired training is Firefighter 1, and Rescue Technician.

Selected applicants will be given an interview with the Personnel Committee; a background investigation will be conducted prior to the interview. The Board of Directors will have final approval of all recommended applicants prior to final position offering. A successful applicant will complete a fire and EMS medical physical; including drug test. The WVFEMS will cover costs for these requirements (Does not include travel expenses).

Salary Information: Provided at time of interview

About the position: This is for a part-time position requiring manual and technical work in Emergency Medical Service and may if qualified, under emergent conditions involve firefighting duties and responsibilities of an emergency and hazardous nature, which may require the highest level of sustained exertion and agility.

In addition to emergency response activities, employees are required to maintain the cleanliness of the station and apparatus, and may be assigned other related duties and responsibilities.

The schedule includes shifts 7 days a week, including holidays. Shift times are Monday-Friday from 0800-1800hrs and Sunday - Saturday 24 Hour Shift beginning at 0700 – 0700.

Employees are required to maintain required licenses at the employee's own expense.

Employees are provided uniforms by the WVFEMS at no expense to the employee.

Applications can be received on the WVFEMS website, by sending an email to w.ball@wvfems.org or stopping at the station located at 2 Brandy Drive, Williamsport, MD.

Baltimore Pike Hosts Convention Gathering (continued)



March 30th where three applications (Little Orleans, Eastern Garrett and Sharpsburg) for assistance was ap-

proved. Pat stated she has had the pleasure of doing conference calls to approve applications with the Executive Committee; however, that has not been the case with the recent application approvals. The committee had indicated to the companies that approval would be quick and their applications could be on the agenda for the Board of Public Works in approximately one month. With the delay in approval by the Executive Committee, this could delay that timetable. Pat noted the VCAF has approximately \$18 million in the account to loan out. She reported that Delagates Malone and Conway are requesting the committee increase the amount of funds set aside for grants each year. Currently \$250K is reserved and a discussion will be held with the Executive Committee regarding the possible increase. At the last Executive Committee meeting, a request

to purchase software to automate the application process online was approved. A vendor was selected and hopefully by June 1st, a test application will be able to be run and if all goes well, the program will be rolled out for general use at the MSFA Convention in June. Pat also stated loan terms for apparatus have been increased. Now terms are up to 15 years for engines and tankers; 20 years for ladders; and 20 years for squads. Pat has applications for those needing them and available to assist if needed in completing them.



Mike Simmons, **Garrett County Association**, noted the next meeting will be held

on Wednesday, May 28 beginning at 7:30 pm at Friendsville VFRD.

Dick DeVore, **Allegany County Dept of Emergency Services**, reported the Accounting Study was out for bid. A pre-bid conference was held on Tuesday, April 8th and members were invited to attend to be informed as to the

information being requested. Barton's tower is progressing, a piece of ground has been located for placement. The phone install and training for the dispatchers continue. Approximately 215 persons attended the Miltenberger seminar. Departments honored at the Night of the Stars was Flintstone & Orleans in Allegany County and Accident & Northern Garrett Rescue in Garrett County. The Department is continuing to assist Garrett County as needed with Deep Creek 2014 Slalom Championship. Approximately 35 different countries will be represented during the contest in September 2014. Dick noted he's still looking for photos from various departments. He thanked those who supported the Emergency Services Team at the Hooley Plunge this year. So far \$115,000 has been raised from the Plunge, \$5,300 of which was raised by the Emergency Services group.



Chris Cage, **Convention Liaison**, noted that April 18th was the dead-

line for pages in the Convention booklet. Patron ads were still available for \$1.00/line.



President Kidwell reported for **Ways & Means**, asking members to think about the

raffle for the AgExpo in June and expressed his interest in expanding the raffle to include the Garrett County Fair as well. A decision is to be made at the May meeting regarding the month long raffle, possibly holding it in September.



John Shuhart, **Insurance**, reported making a Relief Fund payment for Nina Callis of the Deer

Park Auxiliary. Payments for the Relief Fund have been received from most companies; however, am still waiting on payment from Clarysville, Corriganville, Deep Creek, George's Creek Rescue, Midland, and Midland Auxiliary. Payment was due February
(Continued on page 4)

ACTIVE MILITARY PHOTOS SOUGHT

The Maryland State Fireman's Association is looking to complete a tribute to members serving in the military at the convention this June. They are looking for photos of members that are currently serving our country so that they can be included. Being accepted are photos of members in their military uniforms and if they have sent any, photos from their duty stations as well.

For more information or to email photos, contact Teresa Crisman at tacrisman@co.pg.md.us or tacrisman@hotmail.com

Deadline to submit photos is June 1st

Midland VFD

Spring Gun Bash

Saturday, May 31st

Doors open 12:00 p.m.

Drawings 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20.00/person

GRAND PRIZE - \$3,000

Tickets available at the Midland Tavern or from any Midland VFD member

Baltimore Pike Hosts Association (continued)

15th and any member who passes away will not have benefits paid on their behalf until their company submits their payment.

John also gave his **Statistics** report noting that, as of the meeting, he had 23 companies that had not reported from the Association, one from out of the Association.



Mike Simmons, **Special Awards**, reminded everyone that nominations for this year's awards are due at the May meeting. Dick DeVore also reminded that nomi-

nations for the Robert H. Shimer Award, given by the Allegany County Emergency Services Board, are due May 1 also.

Barbara Knippenburg reported she had received reports from smoke alarms from Clarysville; however, still needs information from Cresap-town (20 alarms), and Bowman's Addition (12 alarms).

Secretary Rod Bowser reported the following still owed dues and credential reports as of the meeting date:

DUES: Clarysville, Cresap-town, Eastern Garrett, Ellerslie, Ellerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance and Tri Towns EMS.

CREDENTIALS: Baltimore Pike, Barton, Bedford Road, Clarysville, Corriganville, Cresap-town, Deer Park, Eastern Garrett, Ellerslie, Ellerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance, George's Creek Rescue, Good-Will, Luke, Mt. Savage, Northern Garrett Rescue, Oakland, Potomac and Tri Towns EMS.

Baltimore Pike VFC BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

May 23 & 24th

11:00 am to 7:00 pm

1/2 chicken & roll: \$5.00

1/2 chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, roll: \$7.00

Drinks & dessert sold separately

Delivery available for orders of 5 or more meals

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TYPES

Characteristics, Operational Strategies, Tactics and Considerations

New Market VFD

76 W. Main Street

New Market, MD

May 31 - June 1

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$190/person

This program will introduce students to features and firefighting operations in the five types of building construction.

It will consist of classroom sessions focusing on building construction, fire behavior considerations, and firefighting strategies and tactics specific to each type of building class. Presentation and critique of previous fires in each type of building classification and of local area construction is presented in order to discuss real issues involving these structures.

Chief, Company Officer, and firefighter considerations will be discussed and coordinated. Students will be faced with interactive live fire exercises.

To register, email: training@taskforce1.net

For additional information, contact Christopher Moe, Deputy Fire Chief at come@FrederickCountyMD.gov

West Virginia Public Safety Expo

Charleston Civic Center

Charleston, WV

May 7-10, 2014

Featured courses include:

Company Officer Academy

Warrior Mindset for Law Enforcement

Defensive Edge Weapons

The Art of Reading Smoke

Ten Families of Risk

Dispatcher Judo - Power Phone

...and many more

The WV Public Safety Expo is an annual event in Charleston that gives public safety officials an opportunity to network, obtain training, and enhance their skills in a centralized location with some of the best resources in the country.

Registration: \$125/person

For more information, visit wvsafetyexpo.com

Kent Island Advertising Position for PT ALS Provider

The Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department (KIVFD) is a volunteer community service organization of approximately 100 members who utilize part-time paid staff to provide ALS level EMS response to the citizens of Stevensville, Chester and surrounding areas. KIVFD responds to some 1,500+ emergency calls a year and transports patients to all local hospitals. Successful candidates will work closely with volunteer emergency responders and under the direction of volunteer officers of the department as well as with career personnel from Queen Anne's County who provide emergency medical response in the community as well. Prior to being approved as a cleared provider, the candidate will be required to participate in the Queen Anne's County ALS Provider clearing process.

Position: Part-Time ALS Provider/Firefighter (No benefits)

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration for this position, the applicant must complete an application (available on the MSFA website) and have the following licenses and certifications.

Licenses:

- State of Maryland licensed Paramedic or
- State of Maryland licensed Cardiac Rescue Technician (CRT) and
- Current State of Maryland Drivers License with less than five (5) points.

Certifications:

- NIMS 100, 200 & 700.
- Hazardous Materials Operations.
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (or equivalent).

Other:

- Applicants selected for the position will be required to complete a DOT physical including drug test and be finger printed and have a background check completed through the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Dept. The fire department will cover costs for these requirements (Does not include travel expenses).

Salary Information: Starting Salary: \$17.00/hour.

About the position:

This is a part-time position requiring manual and technical work in Emergency Medical Service and may, if qualified, under emergent conditions involve firefighting duties and responsibility of an emergency and hazardous nature, which may require the highest level of sustained exertion and

President's Car For Sale



On July 16, bids will be opened and a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, with the police package will be sold to the highest bidder after approval of the MSFA Executive Committee. The car will be available for delivery after receipt and delivery of the new vehicle to the newly elected president. That date is yet to be determined as the delivery date has not been confirmed. The car is Toreador Red in color, and will have approximately 164,000 miles when delivered to the successful bidder.

The vehicle is in excellent shape and all miles are highway miles. A picture is attached to show the type of car and color. The vehicle is currently being driven by 1st Vice President Dave Keller.

SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE COMMITTEE BY MIDNIGHT JULY 15, 2014. Mark the envelope "MSFA CAR". Bids are to be sent to: Rusty Leftwich, 2121 Harkins Road, Pylesville, Md. 21132 Please direct questions to the same, at 410-808-8095, or whitehat10@aol.com. MSFA reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

agility. In addition to emergency response activities, employees are required to assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the station and apparatus, and may be assigned other related duties and responsibilities.

The schedule includes shifts seven (7) days a week, including holidays. Shift times are Monday-Friday from 0700 - 1800 hours and weekends are 0800 - 1800 hours.

Employees are required to maintain required licenses at the employee's expense.

Employees are provided limited uniform apparel by the fire department at no expense to the employee.

The Process:

- Applications will be accepted thru, and must be postmarked by, Friday, May 23, 2014 at 1700 hours.
- Select applicants will be invited for a station tour and interview with the hiring committee

- Select applicants may be requested to interview with the Fire Chief, EMS Chief and President.

- Successful candidates will be notified of their hiring in writing (email).
- New hire employees will have an orientation and begin the clearing process.

Inquiries about the position can be made to ffmedicmo@gmail.com Do not call the fire station.

Submit Applications:

Kent Island VFD
Att: EMS Captain Mowbray
1610 Main St.
Chester, MD 21619

Or email pdf to
ffmedicmo@gmail.com



Tips From The LAMSFA: The Siren Silencer

WalMart Recalls Dolls

In a recent web article, NBC Washington News reported that WalMart is recalling 174,000 baby dolls sold between 2012 through 2014. The toy 'My Sweet Love/My Sweet Baby Cuddle Care Baby Doll' has a circuit board in its chest which can overheat. Twelve incidents of burns or blisters have been reported. 'The doll is identified by UPC 6-04576-16800-5 and a date code, found on a label sewn to the bottom of the doll, which begins with WM.'

Clothes Dryer Safety

The NFPA states 'The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.' Do you clean the filter after every use? Do you clean the exhaust vent at least once a year? For fire prevention measures, make sure the lint filter is used with every cycle. Keep the dryer in good working order. The dryer should be turned off when you leave home or go to sleep. NFPA has a Clothes Dryer Safety flyer with additional information .



Orleans VFC Upcoming Events

May 3: Cash Drawing
*Must have ticket

June 1: BBQ Chicken & Ribs

For more information, contact any member of the Orleans VFC



Applications Being Accepted for Paramedic Program

Applications are being accepted until Saturday, May 31 for the upcoming Paramedic program scheduled to begin at Garrett College in September of this year and continue through May/June 2015 for those seeking EMT-I certification and May/June for those wishing to complete the EMT-P program. Currently classes are being held on Mondays and Thursdays at the Garrett College Career Technical Training Center in Accident.

The following is a partial listing of the basic entrance requirements:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age before the first night of class,
- Be a high school graduate (GED certificate accepted),
- Be currently certified as an EMT in the State of Maryland or have applied for reciprocity in Maryland. EMT's should have completed one year of service as a certified provider prior to the first night of class,
- Be a member in good standing with a company providing advanced life support services in Allegany or Garrett County or have applied for membership before the first night of class,
- Take an entrance exam administered by the training program. Candidates should have reading and math levels of at least junior high to be considered for the program,
- Take an EMT evaluation examination administered by the program with a desired minimum score of 75 percent,
- Attend a personal interview with the Program Medical Director, Program Director, the Program Coordinator and a representative of Garrett College,
- Non-Maryland providers may also be considered for acceptance in the program.

Any questions or to request an application, contact Jean Tressler at (301) 387-3085 or jean.tressler@garrettcollege.edu or Doug Beitzel at (301) 387-3772 or doug.beitzel@garrettcollege.edu.



Upcoming Training

EMT
Aug. 20 WMRTC
1830 hrs Wed/Sun

EMT Refresher
June 14 WMRTC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

EMT Skills
June 1 WMRTC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

Online EVOG Skills
May 10 WMRTC
0830 hrs Saturday

Rural Water Supply 5/10-11
Grantsville VFD

Always check the MFRI website for up-to-date classes and changes at www.mfri.org

Swiftwater Rescue Technician
June 16-20 ASCI
9:00 hrs Mon-Fri
Contact Matt Krause for info/costs of course
(301) 616-7886 or RescueDiver7402@me.com

Annual Awards To Be Given at Convention

Letters of nomination are due no later than the May meeting to be eligible for the following awards:

- Firefighter of the Year
- Junior Firefighter of the Year
- EMS Person of the Year
- William H. Smith Jr. Service Award
- Robert H. Shimer Memorial Award (presented by the Allegany Co. Emergency Services Board)



IN MEMORY

Nancy Stark, LaVale Ladies Auxiliary

Nina Callis, Deer Park Ladies Auxiliary

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

<p>*** FREE ***</p> <p>Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon 1313 National Hwy LaVale, MD 21502 (or any of their branches)</p> <p>Offering Free Dry Cleaning of Class A Uniforms or Uniform Shirts</p>	<p>Oldtown VFD Auxiliary</p> <p>Ham Dinner</p> <p>May 11th 12:00 pm</p> <p>Carry-outs available</p>	<p>Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>Good Will Fire Company</p> <p>First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm</p>  <p>Fireman's Armory in Lonaconing</p>	<p>Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.</p> <p>Spaghetti Dinners</p> <p>2nd Saturday each month</p> <p>3:00 - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Adults: \$7.00 Children: \$3.50</p> <p>Turkey Dinners</p> <p>4th Sunday of:</p> <p>March April September</p> 
<p>Bowling Green - Ridgeley VFD</p> <p>BBQ Chicken</p> <p>Friday, May 9th 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturday, May 10th 10:00 am til sold out</p> <p>1/2 Chicken & roll - \$5 1/2 Chicken dinner - \$7</p> <p>Free Delivery for 5 or more dinners! Info or pre-orders, call (301) 729-1522</p>	<p>Chicken BBQ Corriganville VFD</p> <p>June 20th & 21st 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (or until sold out)</p> <p>June 27th & 28th Romney FD & Redneck Float</p> <p>\$7.00 gets you a half chicken, two sides and roll.</p> <p>We Deliver!! Just call (301) 722-7418</p>	<p>GoodWill VFC Craft Show</p> <p>Saturday, May 3 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Free Admission Refreshments Available</p> 	<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Send Us Your Information!!</p>	<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com</p>		

WILD FIRE SAFETY TIPS - KEEPING SAFE

Unlike many natural disasters, most wildfires are caused by people—and can be prevented by people, too. Meteorologists are not yet able to forecast wildfire outbreaks, so people in fire-prone areas should plan ahead and prepare to evacuate with little notice. Here are some tips on how to prevent wildfires and what to do if you're caught in the middle of one.

How to Prevent a Wildfire

Contact 911, your local fire department, or the park service if you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire.

Never leave a campfire unattended. Completely extinguish the fire—by dousing it with water and stirring the ashes until cold—before sleeping or leaving the campsite.

When camping, take care when using and fueling lanterns, stoves, and heaters. Make sure lighting and heating devices are cool before refueling. Avoid spilling flammable liquids and store fuel away from appliances.

Do not discard cigarettes, matches, and smoking materials from moving vehicles, or anywhere on park grounds. Be certain to completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.

Follow local ordinances when burning yard waste. Avoid backyard burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water, and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check. Remove all flammables from yard when burning.

Evacuation Tips

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Know your evacuation route ahead of time and prepare an evacuation checklist and emergency supplies.

Wear protective clothing and footwear to protect yourself from flying sparks and ashes.

Before You Leave, Prepare Your House

Remove combustibles, including firewood, yard waste, barbecue grills, and fuel cans, from your yard.

Close all windows, vents, and doors to prevent a draft.

Shut off natural gas, propane, or fuel oil supplies. Fill any large vessels—pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, or tubs—with water to slow or discourage fire.

If Caught in a Wildfire

Don't try to outrun the blaze. Instead, look for a body of water such as a pond or river to crouch in.

If there is no water nearby, find a depressed, cleared area with little vegetation, lie low to the ground, and cover your body with wet clothing, a blanket, or soil. Stay low and covered until the fire passes.

Protect your lungs by breathing air closest to the ground, through a moist cloth, if possible, to avoid inhaling smoke.

For more information, visit:

environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters/wildfire-safety-tips/

www.agctr.org

Visit us on the web!!

E-mail: drm21555@yahoo.com

Phone: 301-478-5070

Oidtown, MD 21555-0142

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Dennis R. Mallery, Editor

The Bulletin

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